

Community Facilities

Providing residents with facilities and programs to serve community needs

6.1 Introduction

Community facilities are a major component of Round Rock's physical, social, and economic fabric. Facilities help define the identity of the City and contribute to the City's social and economic prosperity.

Facilities most often involve major investments of time and money. As such, new facilities must be prioritized. These priorities offer some indication of who we are and what we value as a community. Many of the current concerns were identified through the citizen workshops described in Chapter 1 and later refined by the City Council into the goals and objectives contained in Chapter 2. General Plan 2000 goals and objectives are the driving force behind changes to community facilities and will provide the basis for future policies.

Facilities discussed in this chapter include fire, police, library, parks, the convention center/stadium complex, and schools. Facilities serve purposes covering a spectrum that ranges from health and safety to general well being. Significant population growth necessitates periodic updates to facilities plans. The first step in the General Plan 2000 update process was an assessment of current and future community needs given expected demographic trends, including population growth and land use assumptions. These are described in Chapters 3 and 4, respectively. City, State, and national standards provide the means to assess whether current efforts adequately meet the needs of the community and to help guide future facility plans. Using population forecasts and land use assumptions, affected City departments forecasted department needs through 2020.

Each of the general forecasts will guide future, more detailed, agency plans, which departments update on a regular basis.

Through facility plans, the City hopes to meet both the needs of the community and the needs of City employees. Both are critical given Round Rock's explosive growth. Round Rock is the largest city in Williamson County, which is one of the fastest growing counties in the nation. Population growth and an expanded geographic area represent two of the biggest challenges to community agencies. Facilities, staffing, and equipment must all be planned well in advance to avoid gaps in services. Along with new construction, adequate attention must be given to expansion, maintenance, and modernization.

6.2 Fire Services

DEPARTMENT CONSIDERATIONS

The adequacy of fire services is measured primarily by response time to a fire. The Round Rock Fire Department uses four minutes as the lower control limit and six minutes as the upper control limit for station response times for both residential and commercial emergencies. The Department tracks station response times and annotates reasons for delays. Customer surveys are sent to each fifth caller. Response times determine State Insurance Services Office (ISO) ratings, which, in turn, determine the cost of fire insurance. The ISO calculates ratings every ten years and assigns a rating from one to ten, with one being the best. Round Rock currently has a four rating. In order to minimize response times, the City is divided into four fire service districts. Fire service district boundaries generally use a 1 1/2-mile radius from each proposed fire station to meet response time criteria. The general response rule is modified by the physical characteristics of each district. Modifying characteristics include highways, railways, arterial roadways, and creeks. Interstate 35, the Union Pacific Railroad, and the Georgetown Railroad form substantial barriers to fire responses. Round Rock also has several natural barriers to fire responses which dictate fire district boundaries including Brushy Creek, with three all-weather crossings, and Lake Creek, with four major crossings.

The City will soon begin construction on a fifth fire station at 400 Deepwood Drive, adjacent to the City recycling center, to serve western Round Rock. Table 6.1 lists City fire stations. Williamson County ambulances are housed in three of the four current fire stations. Although Williamson County provides ambulatory services, the City Fire Department retains responsibility as the first response for medical emergencies. The Fire Department is also contracted to serve the Vista Oaks and Chandler Creek Municipal Utility Districts.

The Department is organized into four divisions, including suppression, prevention, emergency management, and training. A fire and 911 dispatch facility is housed in the Police Department.

To measure its cost-effectiveness, the Fire Department uses cost per capita. Staff and compensation account for most of the budget. The Department operates on a two-year budget and five-year funding cycle. Facilities are funded through bond elections while staff salaries are funded through operations and maintenance moneys. The Department also manages a replacement program for fire apparatus.

Table 6.1 Fire Facilities Inventory

<i>Name</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Service District</i>
Central Station	203 Commerce Boulevard	North
Station No. 2	300 Blair Street	Central
Station No. 3	1992 Rawhide Drive	Southwest
Station No. 4	3300 Gattis School Road	Southeast
Station No. 5	400 Deepwood Drive	West Central

Source: City of Round Rock Fire Department

FUTURE NEEDS

The physical expansion of Round Rock is the determining factor in planning fire facilities or allocating districts. The continued growth of Round Rock will necessitate fire stations in areas presently outside the city limits. The City expects an ultimate total of eight fire stations. In addition to new stations, the City is considering the construction of a multi-story training facility for use by Emergency Medical Services (EMS), the Fire Department, and the Police Department. Public safety agencies would use the facility for both classroom and hands on training. Through these initiatives, the Fire Department hopes to meet the service challenges associated with a rapidly growing city and provide cost-effective service for residents.

6.3 Police Services

Department Considerations

The Round Rock Police Department has a wide range of public safety concerns reflecting the City's unique character and location. Round Rock is a rapidly growing and largely urbanized city within the larger Austin metropolitan area and is bisected by Interstate 35, a heavily traveled interstate and international corridor. Each of these characteristics

represents oftentimes divergent issues for the Police Department and must be considered for adequate police services for City residents and businesses.

The General Plan 2000 goals cite the maintenance of a safe environment for all citizens and a reduction in criminal activity. These form the basis for Department goals. The Department uses car patrols, bicycle patrols, and citizen partnerships to ensure safety throughout the City. Overall, the central component of police protection is a highly visible police presence. Each police officer is responsible for specific geographic areas in the City. Response time, therefore, is related to the patrol area rather than the location of the police station and is dependent on call priority.

FACILITIES INVENTORY

The Police Department is currently served by a central station at 615 East Palm Valley Boulevard. The facility has 20,000 square feet with the potential for expansion over the next ten years to approximately 30,000 square feet.

FUTURE NEEDS

The Department uses both population and population density to assess community and Department needs. Table 6.2 provides a summary of future personnel and space requirements.

Table 6.2 Projected Police Needs

<i>Year</i>	<i>City Population¹</i>	<i>Officers (1.78/1,000 residents)</i>	<i>Civilians (0.5/officer, with phase-in)</i>	<i>Total Projected Personnel</i>	<i>Total Projected Space Requirements (125 sq. ft./person)</i>
2000	53,286	95	38 ²	133	16,625
2005	63,951	114	57	171	21,375
2010	74,615	133	67	200	25,000
2015	85,280	152	76	228	28,500
2020	95,945	171	86	257	32,125

Source: City of Round Rock Police Department

¹Population figures represent linear projections. See Chapter 3 for details.

²The number of civilians listed for 2000 are part of a phase-in period and do not yet reflect 0.5 civilians per officer.

To adequately serve community needs, the Department has identified a number of priorities. One of the most important is adequate facilities. As the Department grows, it requires additional space for both administration and training. The Police Department anticipates the renovation of the adjacent Parks and Recreation Department offices and their conversion into

police offices and possibly locker rooms. The Police Department is also considering the purchase of a neighboring parcel of land for further expansion around 2010. Appropriate facilities should include space for additional holding cells, evidence storage, and processing. Through 2020, the Department may develop a few small satellite offices out of fire stations for routine duties but does not anticipate the construction of large substations.

Training needs include the construction of a firearms range and a driving track. As a cost-effective means to meet facilities requirements and encourage interdepartmental coordination, the Police Department hopes to develop these as joint-use facilities. Planning and organization for training facilities is expected to begin in fiscal year 2000.

Maintenance is a significant issue for the Department. The Department has a fleet of 150 vehicles and may want to hire staff to service vehicles at a dedicated maintenance facility. Another option is to contract vehicle maintenance to a private firm.

Procedurally, the Department anticipates an assessment of administrative police duties to determine if civilian personnel can assume some of them. The Police Department will also continue to coordinate with abutting jurisdictions to determine who will patrol specific areas. Lastly, the Department anticipates enhanced partnerships between the police and residents as a means to enhance the City's quality of life.

Overall, the Police Department is committed to working with the community to provide personalized service that strengthens the relationship between police and citizens. Initiatives are designed to enhance police service in the face of rapid population growth and City expansion.

6.4 Library Services

DEPARTMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Originally organized in 1962, the Round Rock Public Library serves the educational and research needs of the local community. Materials focus on the tastes and needs of the average citizen. Library collections do not attempt to duplicate nearby school or university collections or cover materials of extremely narrow interest. The library coordinates some of its programs with the State Library and is part of the Central Texas Library System.

Library staff coordinates and supports a wide variety of programs. Services are provided for all age groups ranging from daycare site visits, children's story times, and parenting instruction, to adult literacy and internet usage. Recent program enhancements include the addition of a computer and a

CD-ROM for the library genealogy collection. The City Council has also been supportive of increased moneys for library materials over the past two years. Summer is an especially active time for the library. The library offers one major program each week throughout the summer for children, teens, and families. Approximately 2,000 children enroll each year in an eight week summer reading program. To provide better internet training and access, the number of internet terminals will soon double from three to six, and by 2000 to eighteen. To manage computer resources, the library will add a computer systems administrator in late 1999. The administrator will maintain library computer resources, train staff, assist the public, and keep equipment and software current and in good repair.

FACILITIES INVENTORY

The current two-story facility has 11,000 square feet and houses 89,000 items, in both print and multimedia format. It was built in 1980 and renovated in 1988. The current library expansion is scheduled for completion in September 1999. Initially, all library functions will transfer to the expanded area. The old facility will then be remodeled and subsequently joined with the new facility. The expanded facility will have approximately 41,000 square feet of floor space, nearly quadrupling the current space, and will ultimately house 150,000 items. The expanded facility will also add private and group study rooms, large meeting rooms, and a Children's Computer Learning Center. The Children's Computer Learning Center is a new feature designed to meet the information needs of our children. While children have used the internet stations in the library, the new area will include educational software on CD-ROM and filtered internet access. The expanded facility will also house the relocated Round Rock Volunteer Center. The Volunteer Coordinator places human service volunteers throughout the entire City. A self-help research center of the Micro Enterprise Incubator, a Community Development program, will be located in the library to assist those starting small businesses. The Adult Learning Center, sponsored by the Literacy Council of Williamson County, will also be housed in the library.

FUTURE NEEDS

The current library expansion is expected to effectively serve the physical plant needs of Round Rock until nearly 2010. To gauge space requirements, the American Library Association (ALA) has established a standard of 0.6 square feet of library space per capita. Using current population projections, library staff determined the following needs:

Table 6.3 Projected Library Needs

<i>Year</i>	<i>Population¹</i>	<i>Staffing</i>	<i>Number of Items (2 items per resident)</i>	<i>Required Area (0.6 square feet per resident)</i>
2000	53,286	31	106,572	31,972
2005	63,951	34	127,902	38,371
2010	74,615	37 (47 with branch)	149,230	44,769
2015	85,280	42 (53 with branch)	170,560	51,168
2020	95,945	48 (60 with branch)	191,890	57,567

Source: City of Round Rock Public Library

¹ Population figures denote linear projections. See Chapter 3 for details.

By 2010, the library building will need augmentation to adequately serve the needs of the community. Expansion of library facilities is guided both by the number and the location of residents. As the City expands and residents become more geographically dispersed, adequate access for each area may no longer be possible using one central facility. Branch facilities are therefore anticipated. One ALA measurement states that a library facility should be located within a ten minute drive from a home. As Round Rock continues to grow northeast and southeast, ideal branch locations would be in the northeast quadrant of the City, followed by the southeast. The library branch could be part of other remote City facilities, such as a recreation building or senior citizen's center.

In addition to adequate facilities, adequate staffing is critical to meet evolving community needs. Overall, expanded facilities require additional staff supervision. The library staff would also like to add programs to fill existing program gaps. As the community becomes more diverse, the library foresees broadening its role from providing programs for pre-school through middle school aged children to expanding programs for teenagers, the elderly, and younger toddlers. To address the needs of teens and seniors, a Special Services Librarian is proposed. Populations such as entrepreneurs and businesses will also be targeted for specialized services.

Each library initiative is designed to provide community building services. It is expected that current residents will take full advantage of additional library offerings and new facilities. While new facilities and offerings may meet the latent demand for services, population is expected to rise unabated, creating an even greater demand for library services. Such factors, therefore, indicate that increased staff levels and future expansions will be necessary.

6.5 Parks & Recreation

DEPARTMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Parkland and open space are essential elements in the urban environment. Parks provide public space suitable for competition, play, or relaxation. Parks also provide a retreat from an oftentimes congested environment. The park system provides the public with a range of park types and facilities designed to serve the varied needs of City residents, young and old alike.

The foundation of the current parks system can be traced to 1982. In 1982, the City Council adopted a Parks Development Guide. The 1982 Guide, revised in 1996, addressed goals and accomplishments, inventoried land and facilities, and designated an overall policy for parks and recreational development. Since the development of the first Guide, the Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) has created numerous parks within the City including the 439 acre Old Settlers Park at Palm Valley. At present PARC is developing a Parks and Open Space Plan as an update to the Parks Development Guide. The Plan will use the goals and objectives of the General Plan 2000 and citizen input to assess current facilities and develop plans to meet future community needs. It will serve as a master plan for the City's parks system and, upon completion, the City will incorporate it into the General Plan 2000.

Historically, residents have used City parks for outdoor recreation. Outdoor recreation takes into account a variety of uses, both active and passive. Facilities are also used year round for PARC sponsored activities, both indoor and outdoor. These include recreational instruction classes, aquatics, youth athletics, adult athletics, special events, and senior programs. For Fiscal Year 1996 (FY 96), the period October 1, 1995, through September 30, 1996, there were approximately 74,000 participants in PARC sponsored activities. For FY 97, the number rose to 89,000, a twenty percent increase. At the same time, the number of residents rose by only six per-cent. As PARC constructs new facilities and acquires additional properties, and as the City's population grows, PARC expects similar annual increases in participation.

FACILITIES INVENTORY

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks are the basic element in the City park system. They provide recreation facilities within walking distance of most residents. In addition, a number of small private parks with various amenities are operated by homeowner associations. These private facilities usually center on a swimming pool maintained through homeowner association fees. Round Rock has nineteen neighborhood parks, covering over 77 acres.

These offer facilities for all age groups and include playgrounds, play fields, and passive recreation areas.

Neighborhood parks are generally acquired through the subdivision process. The City plans to continue to receive land dedications to develop neighborhood parks. Neighborhood parks may also be developed in conjunction with school sites. The combination of neighborhood scale parks and school sites allows a variety of uses and equipment at a lower cost to the community than separate facilities. In order to jointly develop park and school sites, close cooperation is required between the City and the Round Rock Independent School District as school sites are selected, acquired, and developed.

COMMUNITY PARKS

Community parks are generally larger than neighborhood parks. They are intended to meet the needs of several neighborhoods and provide facilities for all age groups. Facilities may include tennis courts, sports fields, picnic areas, swimming pools, and playground equipment. These parks generally range in size from ten to thirty acres. Round Rock has ten community parks, which account for 202 acres. Community parks serve a substantial number of people and should be sited with good pedestrian, bicycle, and automobile access.

SPORTS FIELDS

City sports fields serve a variety of users and are often located within community parks. The City has six sports sites. These sites account for an additional 80 acres of PARD facilities. Table 6.4 lists the number of existing sports fields by type.

Table 6.4 Sports Fields

<i>Type</i>	<i>Number</i>
Adult Softball	2
Football Fields	3
Soccer Fields	11
Youth Baseball	16
Youth Softball	4
Total	36

Source: Round Rock Parks and Recreation Department

OLD SETTLERS PARK AT PALM VALLEY

Old Settlers Park at Palm Valley is the largest City park with 439 acres. It is located along US 79, a main east-west arterial. It serves as a regional park and is designed to provide a range of activities to the entire City.

Recreational facilities include sports fields, playground equipment, a trail, pavilions, fishing lake, disk golf course, festival area, and picnic areas. The site features historic cabins along with a large hall, known as the "Tabernacle," used for social functions and City events. The park was acquired in 1987 in large part through the efforts of the Old Settlers Association, a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of Williamson County's history and heritage.

GREENBELTS

Round Rock has an abundance of creeks and small reservoirs suitable for use as greenbelts. As part of an ongoing process, the City works with developers and utility companies to incorporate lakes, creeksides, and large utility easements into the City's greenbelt system. Currently, PARD has 98 acres in its greenbelt system. In the future, some sections of the greenbelt system may link parks.

GOLF COURSE

The City owns the eighteen-hole Forest Creek Golf Course, located east of County Road 122 within the Forest Creek subdivision. The course was completed in the Fall of 1990 and has been one of the highest rated daily fee courses in the State. The course is run by a management company and is self supporting. It features a driving range, pro shop, and snack bar.

SWIMMING POOLS

The City maintains two swimming pools, Micki Krebsbach, located adjacent to the Round Rock High School on Deepwood Drive, and Lake Creek Pool, located in the Lake Creek Park off Park Lane. Micki Krebsbach Pool is the larger of the two. It was opened in 1996, covers 10,190 square feet, and has a 644-person capacity. It features three types of pools: a competition pool, a plunge pool with a tower slide, and a leisure pool with water features. Lake Creek Pool covers 4,634 square feet and has a 345 person capacity. It is a traditional L-shaped pool with one and three meter diving boards. A separate wading pool for toddlers covers an additional 400 square feet and has a capacity of thirty children.

CLAY MADSEN INDOOR RECREATION CENTER

The Clay Madsen Center, to be located in Greenslopes Park on Gattis School Road, is a new PARD facility scheduled for completion in April 2000. Originally designed as a somewhat smaller center, plans were expanded after the community indicated a desire for a larger facility. The \$4.8 million center was funded through 1996 General Obligation Bonds, 1998 Certificates of Obligation, and a Local Parks Grant. The center totals 50,000 square feet and features an indoor six-lane lap pool, two gymnasiums, four racquetball courts, exercise facilities, a game room, a meeting room, an arts and crafts room, and a full kitchen. The center will accommodate both scheduled and walk-in activities. PARD will offer both family and individual membership plans.

FUTURE NEEDS

Trends indicate that Round Rock's steady growth will continue. The City anticipates the development of most privately held vacant and agricultural lands within the next twenty years along with associated increases in population. As the City grows, so will the demand for park facilities. Citizens and the City Council have identified several parks objectives in the General Plan 2000 update process. The forthcoming Parks and Open Space Plan will build on these objectives. Using citizen input, it will assess community needs, evaluate priorities, and establish implementation plans. Citizens and staff have already identified several issues including the development of a trails system, the preservation of scenic open spaces, the revitalization of current parks, a reorientation of the transportation system to better serve the parks system, an increase in the number of recreational facilities and fields within the City, and increased staff levels.

TRAILS SYSTEM

In light of urbanization, General Plan 2000 goals and objectives cite the development of a trails system and open space plan as a means to protect and utilize the City's unique ecological features and help maintain the City's current quality of life. As stated earlier, the City uses parkland dedications during the subdivision process as the main device to fulfill park needs. Coupled with parkland dedications, the City anticipates the firm delineation of desired trail parcels and the purchase of those parcels by the City. A developed trails system would provide recreational opportunities within the City, connections between neighborhoods and services, links between smaller neighborhood parks and larger parks, and links with neighboring communities. Within the City, links to the City Sidewalk Plan would ensure trail access for all City residents. Existing natural features would be utilized whenever possible. In addition to natural features, trails could connect residents to the new convention center/stadium complex and Round Rock's historic areas, including Downtown, Chisholm Trail, and Palm Valley.

The City expects trails to benefit the community in a number of ways. According to a study sponsored by the U.S. Department of Transportation, the community benefits in a broad range of areas including transportation, recreation, economics, education, environmental protection, historic preservation, cultural enhancement, access, planning, and quality of life.

OPEN SPACE

Round Rock has a diverse natural heritage including native prairie lands, woodlands, and creeks. These areas are home to a number of sensitive plant and animal species. The Parks and Open Space Plan will enhance the character of the City, protect property values, and provide buffers to roadway expansions while creating unique recreational venues. Open space preservation should focus on floodplains to preclude degradation of water sources and costly engineering solutions during development. The potential also exists for a parklands interpretive and education center. Such a

center could be the focal point for environmental education within the City and provide access to local trails.

REVITALIZE EXISTING PARKS

In conjunction with the development of a trails system and the construction of sidewalks in the City Sidewalk Plan, the City should continue the revitalization of its existing parks. Revitalization ensures all residents have access to adequate and inviting facilities. As with trails, park facilities should utilize existing natural features to the maximum extent possible. Besides significant natural features, other means to entice residents to visit park facilities include planted trees and landscaping, comfortable areas to rest, connected pathways, and adequate facilities. Park use can also be increased through the creation of a connected system of transportation options including sidewalks, trails, and bike lanes.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is a critical component of any park system and helps determine park usage. Current links primarily emphasize the automobile. A more balanced transportation network would include pedestrian and bicycle links between residences, schools, and parks. These links ensure safe access, particularly for children, and preclude parents from rigidly scheduling each park trip. Additionally, pedestrian and bicycle links ensure continued foot traffic, which helps keep parks safe, and could be used by Police bicycle patrols. Round Rock has the opportunity to incorporate several transportation modes to link origins and destinations within the City as it implements its Transportation Master Plan. New construction and expansions to existing facilities should consider pedestrians, cyclists, and accessibility, particularly for children and the elderly.

RECREATION

Already PARD maintains an ambitious recreation program. To meet increasing demands for recreation, PARD anticipates the continued development of recreational venues through 2020. One of the greatest needs is youth and adult athletic fields. PARD will continue to develop fields in conjunction with schools and parks as a cost-effective means to meet demands. The forthcoming Parks and Open Space Plan will help identify the needs of the community and will drive the location and number of facilities.

STAFF LEVELS

Staff level increases are necessary to effectively manage any increase in facilities and properties. With few exceptions, staff levels have remained relatively static over the past decade despite significant increases in PARD managed properties and programs. To effectively fulfill its obligations, PARD expects to hire additional staff throughout the ensuing decades. In October 1998, the Department hired its first parks planner and urban forester. The parks planner provides expertise in the design and maintenance of playground equipment, athletic fields, and parks. Other duties

include project management and public relations. The urban forester manages the natural resources of the City and outreach programs. Both positions provide in-house expertise and demonstrate a renewed emphasis on public outreach and interdepartmental coordination.

SUMMARY

Round Rock has the opportunity to develop an enviable parks system. An abundance of significant natural features, a rich historical heritage, a significant residential population, and the potential for links throughout the City, indicate that the enhancement and development of the City parks system would be successful and well received. Goals identified through citizen and City Council efforts indicate that adequate parks and recreation facilities are important to the community. The City's commitment is demonstrated by the development of the forthcoming Parks and Open Space Plan, which will identify those areas deemed most important to the community. In conjunction with the Parks and Open Space Plan, a campaign should be initiated to identify funding sources including private donations and the leveraging of City funds with private, State, and federal moneys. Also important are increases in staff levels to effectively manage PARD facilities and programs. Such a strategy shows the promise of meeting the needs of a growing and diverse population.

6.6 Convention Center/Stadium Complex

FACILITY DESCRIPTION

The convention center/stadium complex is located along US 79 and is expected to be complete by April 2000. The complex will seat 7,500 and is intended to be used year round for events such as tournaments, clinics, camps, conferences, meetings, retreats, receptions, trade shows, and concerts. For sporting events, the complex includes an overflow grass berm, which can accommodate an additional 2,500 people. The complex is expected to accommodate 10,000 people at concerts.

Initially proposed in 1998, the convention center/stadium complex represents a major investment by the City and a diversification of the economic base. The complex is a joint project between the City of Round Rock and RSR Sports, Incorporated. The complex is anticipated to cost approximately \$15 million and is financed through both private investment and City revenue bonds. Revenue bonds will be repaid through hotel occupancy taxes. The City expects the complex to increase local revenues, lead to further development in the Palm Valley area, and provide a venue for family entertainment.

In keeping with the historic and natural heritage of the Palm Valley area, the complex is designed using natural materials and with attention to nearby natural features and historic sites. Palm Valley Lutheran Church

and Cemetery, the Israel-Telander homestead, and Kenney Fort are historic sites near the complex.

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

To enhance the Palm Valley area and support the City's investment in the complex, the Planning and Community Development Department is developing a Palm Valley Area Plan. Ultimately, the Area Plan will recommend standards, uses, and roadway designs to preserve and enhance the natural and historic nature of the area. Given the large number of people expected at various events, transit is another critical consideration for the continued viability of the complex and the adjacent neighborhoods. Chapter 5, Future Land Use, contains a more detailed description of the Palm Valley Area Plan under Section 5.4, Plan Features.

6.7 Schools

DISTRICT CONSIDERATIONS

The City of Round Rock and most of its extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) lie within the Round Rock Independent School District (ISD). Portions of the Round Rock ETJ are served by the Georgetown, Hutto, and Leander ISDs. While the Round Rock ISD is the primary focus of this section, the issues cited are applicable to all districts represented in the Planning Area.

The Round Rock ISD serves Round Rock along with portions of Austin, Cedar Park, and Georgetown. The District is responsible for all decisions affecting schools and facilities. While school decisions are made by the District, the location and size of school sites and facilities are related to elements of the General Plan 2000.

The Round Rock ISD currently has twenty-three elementary, seven middle, and three high schools. Of these schools, twelve elementary, four middle, and one high school are within the Planning Area as defined in Chapter 1. The District is currently building a 24th elementary school, Caldwell Heights, on Chandler Road, and a 4th high school, Stony Point, on Bowman Road next to Hopewell Middle School. Both Caldwell Heights Elementary and Stony Point High School will serve City residents. Caldwell Heights is scheduled to open in October 1999, and will provide enrollment relief for Double File Trail, Forest Creek, and Robertson Elementary Schools. Stony Point is scheduled to open in August 1999 and will relieve Round Rock High School.

The Planning Area contains adequate undeveloped land for future school construction. Schools are constrained, however, due to the State's school financing scheme. Texas has specified a maximum of \$1.50 taxation per \$100 of property valuation for school maintenance and operations. District

debt for construction is unlimited, so that new schools can be built, but once they open, schools cannot be staffed or supplied with utilities, due to the maintenance and operations restrictions. Increases in property values offer no relief, as State funding is decreased as tax revenues climb. If property values rise high enough, the District would be required to send some property taxes back to the State for redistribution to low revenue areas. Although the State gives the District a stipend for every new pupil, these funds do not offset the loss of other State funds due to increased property valuations. The net result is a loss of funds each year. At the same time, enrollments are rising at the fastest rate in the District's history. These factors have contributed to enrollments for the 1998-1999 school year above permanent building capacity levels at twelve of the seventeen schools within the Planning Area. To meet student demands, the District employs measures such as boundary modifications and the installation of portable classrooms. The District currently maintains approximately 200 portables, which account for approximately 400 classrooms. Student demands are also met through early site selection and the construction of schools with the potential for expansion. These methods offer a cost-effective means to meet future enrollment demands.

Despite enrollment pressures, all facilities are well maintained and contain comparable features. Consistent facilities across the schools are due in large part to a 1994 bond issue. The 1994 bond issue raised money for upgrades to older facilities. Elementary schools were most affected. All elementary schools, regardless of age, now feature science, art, and music rooms, along with mini-gyms and computer labs. A larger bond issue in 1996 financed additions to several schools, classroom technology upgrades, several new roofs, and the construction of Caldwell Heights Elementary School and Stony Point High School.

To keep abreast of changes in school enrollments, the District hired a demographer in the mid-1980s. The demographer develops projections for school enrollments based on the number of current and projected houses and apartment units. Enrollment projections are used to assess the adequacy of current facilities and to guide expansions and new building construction. The demographer coordinates on a regular basis with the Planning and Community Development Department staff and reviews proposed developments within the Planning Area. Communication between the City and District officials ensures consistency between land use, transportation, and facility siting plans. District officials also periodically coordinate with developers to reserve space within new developments for school sites, when appropriate, and consider the development of joint school/park facilities as a cost-effective solution to facility needs.

FACILITIES INVENTORY

Table 6.5 Elementary Schools¹

<i>Name</i>	<i>Permanent Building Capacity</i>	<i>Enrollment (January 1999)</i>	<i>Capacity Percentage</i>
Berkman	500	513	102.6 %
Bluebonnet	460	652	141.7 %
Brushy Creek	600	598	99.7 %
Caldwell Heights	750		
Deepwood	420	413	98.3 %
Double File Trail ²	680	735	108.1 %
Fern Bluff	500 (1998-1999)	619	123.8 %
	852 (1999-2000)		72.7 %
Forest Creek ²	750	922	122.9 %
Gattis	420	676	160.9 %
Great Oaks	750	597	79.6 %
Old Town	620	812	131.0 %
Robertson ²	400	448	112.0 %
Voigt	640	615	96.1 %

Source: Round Rock Independent School District

¹ Only those Round Rock ISD schools in the Planning Area, as defined in Chapter 1, are listed.

² These schools will gain enrollment relief after the opening of Caldwell Heights.

Table 6.6 Middle Schools¹

<i>Name</i>	<i>Permanent Building Capacity</i>	<i>Enrollment (January 1999)</i>	<i>Capacity Percentage</i>
Cedar Valley	900 (1998-1999)	1,049	116.6 %
	1,300 (1999-2000)		80.7 %
Chisholm Trail	900	1,009	112.1 %
C D Fulkes	800	739	92.4 %
Hopewell	900	931	103.4 %

Source: Round Rock Independent School District

¹ Only those Round Rock ISD schools in the Planning Area, as defined in Chapter 1, are listed.

Table 6.7 High Schools¹

<i>Name</i>	<i>Permanent Building Capacity</i>	<i>Enrollment (January 1999)</i>	<i>Capacity Percentage</i>
Stony Point	1,700		
Round Rock ²	2,337	3,501	149.8 %

Source: Round Rock Independent School District

¹ Only those Round Rock ISD schools in the Planning Area, as defined in Chapter 1, are listed.

² Round Rock High School will gain enrollment relief after the opening of Stony Point.

FUTURE NEEDS

Meeting the future needs of a rapidly growing district is a formidable challenge. Since the late 1980's the District has seen an average annual enrollment increase of over 900 students per year. Enrollment growth is likely to continue for the foreseeable future given the strong employment growth in Central Texas and the construction of thousands of homes.

To meet these challenges the District solicits the involvement of several entities in decision making. While the District and City staffs coordinate on a regular basis for school issues, citizen committees are a vital part of any expansion or construction decision. When the need arises, several different citizen committees are formed to study the needs of the District, develop proposals, and make recommendations to the School Board. These proposals, along with citizen input, help guide School Board decisions. Citizens active in the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) have also lobbied for the reform of the State's school financing scheme. Because of the efforts of the PTA and other concerned parties, several bills have recently been proposed in the Texas legislature to relieve some of the financing pressures on high growth areas.

School planning efforts culminate in the development of a District Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) each year. The CIP provides enrollment projections for the next five years and specifies the timetable and location of future facilities. Among other things, current plans recommend land purchases for future schools, the construction of a fifth high school, and the construction of one or two middle schools within the District. Future considerations include the expansion of Gattis Elementary School. While not an implementation plan, the CIP provides a starting point for more focused efforts by future citizen committees.

Through the years, the District and community have successfully met the educational needs of the community in the midst of rapid population growth. While enrollment pressures are not anticipated to level off in the near future, the framework is in place to handle these pressures in a consistent and effective manner.

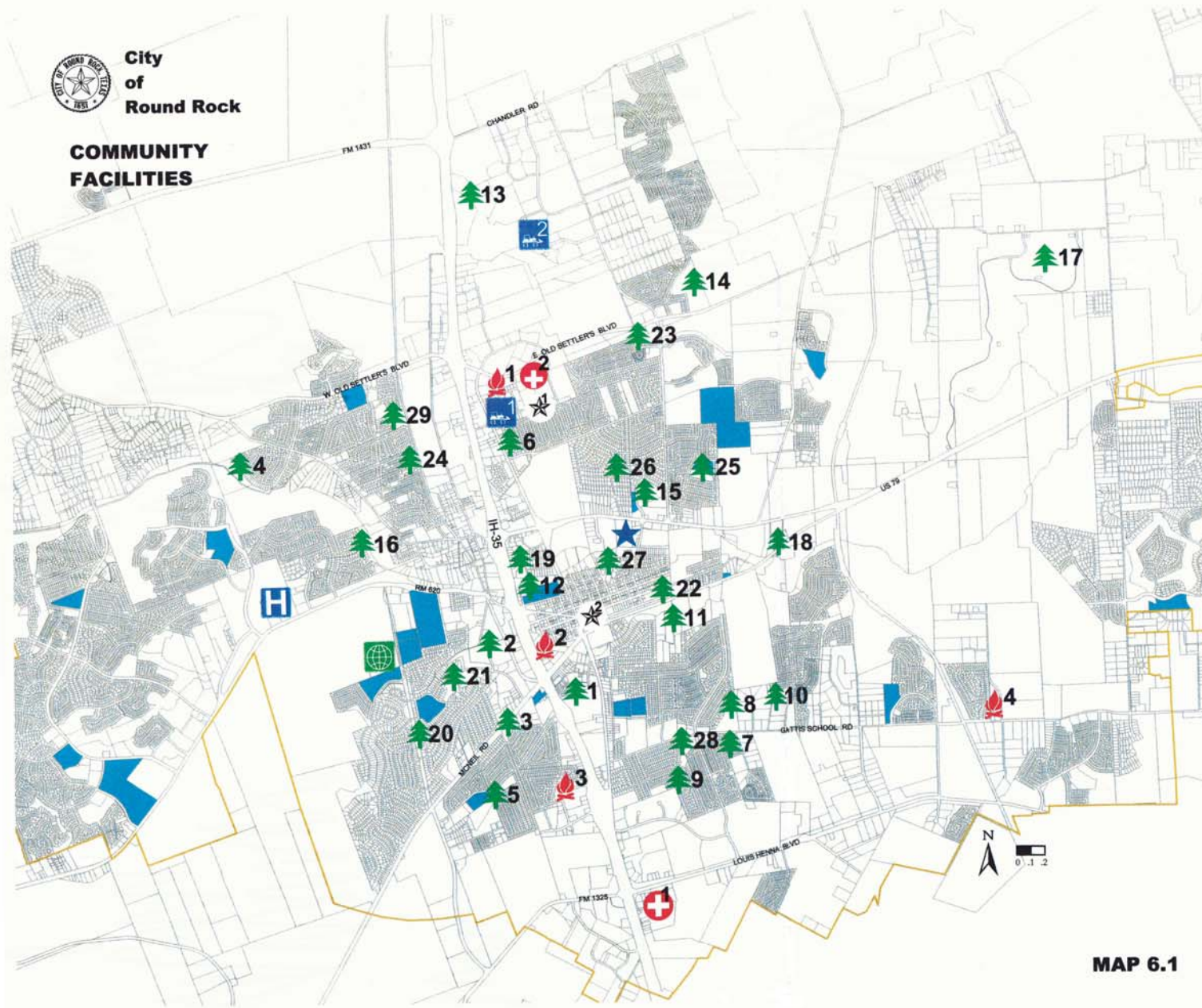
6.8 Summary

Overall, analysis of community facilities indicates that population pressures and steady development will continue during the next twenty years. Population growth and the steady expansion of the City represent formidable challenges to community agencies. To meet these challenges, community agencies will respond in some cases with new construction, expansions, modernization, and increased maintenance. 2010 will be a critical year for facility expansions. Shared facilities and joint projects represent cost-effective methods to meet some of these demands. Other common themes among community agencies are the need for increased staffing and the need for additional programs to adequately serve a growing population. Crafting solutions is a labor intensive process for City staff and growth initially involves an increased workload for numerous City employees. At a certain point, augmentation is necessary to manage increased workloads. Response to growth also takes the form of internal disruption and evolution in the way we operate as a City. The City anticipates new relationships, partnerships, and communication channels between agencies, along with the communication infrastructure to handle these initiatives. Agency connections and relationships ensure a consistent response to community needs, particularly those not currently integrated into the physical, social, or economic fabric of the community. Attention to these issues ensures a consistent quality of community services for all residents.



**City
of
Round Rock**

COMMUNITY FACILITIES



— Extraterritorial Jurisdiction

■ School sites

★¹ County Annex - 211 Commerce Cove

★² Main Street Complex
Chamber of Commerce - 212 East Main
City Attorney - 309 East Main
County Commissioner (Prct 1) - 307 East Main
City Hall - 221 East Main
Finance Department - 221 East Main
Human Resources - 221 East Main
Library - 216 East Main
Municipal Court - 221 East Main
Planning Department - 221 East Main
Water Billing - 221 East Main

Fire Department

1 Central Fire Station - 203 Commerce

2 Station #2 - 300 Blair

3 Station #3 - 1991 Rawhide

4 Station #4 - 3300 Gattis School Road

★ Palm Valley Complex

PARC Office - 605 East Palm Valley Blvd.

Police Station - 615 East Palm Valley Blvd.

Parks

- 1 Buck Egger - 900 South Mays
- 2 Bustin Park - 200 South Chisholm Trail
- 3 Chisholm - 1201 Tray
- 4 Creek Bend - 2800 Creek Bend Circle
- 5 Frontier - 1502 Frontier Trail
- 6 Greenhill - 1825 Nicole Circle
- 7 Greenlawn Place - 1501 Gattis School Road
- 8 Greenslopes - 1600 Gattis School Road
- 9 Kensington - 1890 Oxford
- 10 Kinningham - 1000 South Creek Drive
- 11 Lake Creek - 800 Deerfoot Drive
- 12 Legion Field - 601 Lee Street
- 13 McNeil - 3701 North IH-35
- 14 Meadow Lake Park - 2901 Settlement Drive
- 15 Mesa Village - 1401 Georgetown
- 16 Oaklands - Springwater Dr.
- 17 Old Settlers Park - 2800 East Palm Valley Blvd.
- 18 Rabb - 220 East Palm Valley Blvd.
- 19 Round Rock Memorial - 600 Lee Street
- 20 Round Rock West Greenbelt
- 21 Round Rock West - 500 Round Rock W. Dr.
- 22 Sam Bass Fields - 901 East Main Street
- 23 Settlement - 1400 David Curry Loop
- 24 Somerset - 1600 Somerset Drive
- 25 Stark - 1409 Provident Lane
- 26 Stella - 803 Nancy Drive
- 27 Veterans - 200 Pecan
- 28 Windy Terrace - 1401 Gattis School Road
- 29 The Woods - 1300 Woods Boulevard

Public Works

- 1 Main Building - 2008 Enterprise
- 2 Yard and Shop - 920 Luther Peterson Place

■ Recycling Center - 300 Deepwood Drive

Medical Centers

- 1 Round Rock Hospital - 2400 Round Rock Ave.
- 2 St. David's Medicenter - 117B Louis Henna, suite 200
- 3 Public Health Clinic - 211 Commerce Cove

MAP 6.1